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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,769	03/16/2004	Darryl L. Schmitz	8929/3049	3138
34205	7590	12/15/2005		
OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY LLP 45 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET, SUITE 3300 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			EXAMINER MAYO, TARA L	
			ART UNIT 3671	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 12/15/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 14 November 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The prior rejection of claims 17 through 20 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph has been overcome by the response filed 14 November 2005. Specifically, see section 1 of the Remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 17 through 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shepherd (U.S. Patent No. 195,850).

Shepherd '850, as seen in Figures 1 and 2, shows a sleep surface comprising:
with regard to claim 1,

a first section (A) having a longitudinal side including a first upper lip (E) and a first lower lip (G'), each of said first upper and lower lips having an inner surface and an outer surface, said upper and lower lips defining a receiving channel therethrough;

a second section (C) having a longitudinal side including a second upper lip (upper rim) and a second lower lip (lower rim) , each of said second upper and lower lips having an inner

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surface and an outer, said second upper lip and said second lower lip received into said receiving channel, wherein the outer surface of said second upper lip abuts the inner surface of said first upper lip and the outer surface of said second lower lip abuts the inner surface of said first lower lip forming an overlap between the first section and the second section, wherein said longitudinal side of said second section is attached to the longitudinal side of the first section; and further wherein each section is constructed and arranged to maintain an air pressure therein that is independent of an air pressure in the other section; and further wherein said first and second bladder are capable of being folded into a sleeper sofa when not in use (specifically, by detaching one of elements E and E');

with regard to claim 9,

further comprising a reinforcing member (G) operably attached to the first and second sections over the overlap.

Shepherd '850 fails to teach:

the first and second sections being bladders;

the longitudinal side of the first bladder being heat welded to the longitudinal side of the second bladder; and

the longitudinal side of the second bladder being attached to the longitudinal side of the first bladder with a hook and loop fastener, a zipper or a plurality of snaps.

With regard to claim 1, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of beds at the time the invention was made to modify the device shown by Shepherd '850 by

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substituting bladders for the first and second sections since the Examiner takes Official Notice of the functional equivalence of bladders and mattresses as sleep surfaces.

With regard to claim 4, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of beds at the time the invention was made to modify the device shown by Shepherd '850 such that the longitudinal side of the first bladder would be heat welded to the longitudinal side of the second bladder. The motivation would have been to permanently secure the first and second bladders to one another.

With regard to claims 5 through 7, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of beds at the time the invention was made to modify the device shown by Shepherd '850 such that the longitudinal side of the second bladder would be attached to the longitudinal side of the first bladder with a hook and loop fastener, a zipper or a plurality of snaps instead of buttons. The motivation would have been to releasably secure the first and second bladders to one another with attachment means equivalent to buttons.

With regard to claims 17 through 20, the method steps recited therein are inherent to the use of the device shown by Shepherd '850 and as modified above.

With specific regard to claim 17, in view of the teaching by Shepherd '850 for the desirability of making mattresses more convenient for packing or handling (second full para.), it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Shepherd '850 such that it would further include the step of folding the first and second bladders into a sleeper sofa when not in use. The motivation would have been to facilitate the use and storage of the prior art device in a sleeper sofa.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tara L. Mayo whose telephone number is 571-272-6992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 571-272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TLM
11 December 2005


TARA L. MAYO
PATENT EXAMINER